

gathered up and thrown away. So there's little left of Mr. Carter's work except a few calendars and a few copies of his book, "Black History Makers."

But, during Black History Month, we recognize such little-known figures as Mr. Carter, as well as the celebrated.

Mr. Carter would have liked that.●

#### HONORING HOBBS, N.M., HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH RALPH TASKER

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man who has accumulated a remarkable record as the head basketball coach at Hobbs High School in New Mexico. This year he ends more than a half century of teaching and coaching. During these decades of service, he has endeared himself to a community and earned acclaim as one of the most winning high school coaches in the United States.

To understand the significance of Ralph Tasker's impact, it is useful to know more about Hobbs, the community to which he had dedicated his life.

Hobbs is a city born of the hard-scrabble oil and gas industry. Situated on the dusty mesquite-laden plains of southeast New Mexico, it is primarily dependent on farming, ranching, and the petroleum industry. It is a proud community that has touted itself as "Hobbs, America."

I believe I can safely say that a lot of the pride in this community has been fostered by its school system and, more specifically, the renowned success of its high school basketball team.

Mr. President, on February 20, Ralph Tasker will coach his last high school basketball game in Hobbs.

On that Friday evening in the Ralph Tasker Arena, the people of Hobbs—a town accustomed to the booms and busts of the oil and gas industry—will honor the man who since 1949 has led the Hobbs Eagles to consistent basketball glory. Under Ralph Tasker's steady tutelage, it can be said a most constant sound in Hobbs, beyond the hum of oilfield pumps, has been the swish of basketballs ripping through the hoops, the squeak of rubber on hardwood, and decades of cheering fans. It has been through the efforts of Ralph Tasker, the hard knuckled basketball coach, that Hobbs has become known to America.

Understandably, Hobbs honors the end of Coach Tasker's remarkable career with a measure of trepidation.

Mr. President, I believe Ralph Tasker's career as a high school coach has been so outstanding that he deserves the recognition of the Senate.

Born, raised and educated in West Virginia, Ralph Tasker's life has virtually always involved basketball. His teaching and coaching career began in Ohio. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army Air Corps stationed at what is now Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. Tasker played basketball with the Flying Kellys during his service days.

Following the war, he earned a masters degree and returned to New Mex-

ico, this time to Lovington where he taught and coached starting in 1946. It was in 1949 that Ralph Tasker began his illustrious tenure as the head basketball coach at Hobbs High School.

Over the decades, Coach Tasker has compiled the third most winning record of active high school coaches in the United States, with a record of at least 1,116 wins and only 289 losses.

Tasker's Hobbs Eagles have won a dozen state championships—one in Lovington in 1949 and 11 in Hobbs in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1980, 1981, 1987, and 1988. He is believed to have set a record of sorts by coaching state championship basketball teams in five different decades, from the 1940s to the 1980s. The varsity team has qualified for the state basketball tournaments 36 times, including 24 consecutive tourney appearances between 1961 and 1985.

In 52 seasons as head basketball coach, Ralph Tasker's teams have suffered only two losing seasons. In comparison, he has coached 36 teams to seasons with 20 or more victories. He led two teams through perfect seasons, 1966 (28-0) and 1981 (26-0). His 1970 squad averaged 114.6 points per game during a 27-game season, which is still a national record.

All this success has been rewarded with a trophy case of personal honors. Ralph Tasker has been named National High School Coach by the National High School Coaches Association and by the National Sports News Service. In 1991, he was named the National Athletic Coach of the Year by the prestigious Walt Disney National Teacher Awards Program.

He was a 1988 inductee into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Missouri. He has also been inducted into the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor, the Alderson-Broadus College's Battler Hall of Fame, and the New Mexico State University Aggie Hall of Fame.

Recognition of Coach Tasker's abilities is underscored by the fact that more than 100 Eagle basketball players have gone to college on basketball scholarships, with 50 named to All-State squads, nine selected to prep All-American teams, and 13 drafted by professional basketball leagues.

But I know that the citizens of Hobbs are most proud and appreciative of Ralph Tasker for the hundreds of lives he has helped shape as a coach and mentor. Hundreds upon hundreds of youth people have benefited from the hard work, discipline, and sense of comradery they gained under Coach Tasker's direction. For more than 50 years he has given impressionable young men a sense of direction, a sense of being part of something bigger and greater than they could be by themselves. In teaching such lessons through sweat and toil on the varnished boards of a gymnasium floor, he has made Hobbs a better place to live.

For all his accomplishments, I salute Ralph Tasker, and join those who bring

deserved attention to his lifetime of commitment to an honored sport and the youth who play the game.●

#### RETIREMENT OF RALPH TASKER

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to give praise to a great man. Ralph Tasker has announced that after 52 seasons of coaching, he will retire as the head basketball coach at Hobbs High School in New Mexico. In his 52 seasons, Coach Tasker has amassed over 1,103 wins en route to 12 State championships, 4 State runner-up titles, and 1 National Coach of the Year title. Indeed, Coach Tasker's legacy is that of a man who not only won many basketball games, but also brought his positive influence into the lives of hundreds of high school students.

From 1965 to 1967, Coach Tasker's team won 53 consecutive games. In the 1969-70 season, his team averaged 114.6 points per game, earning him the prestigious National Coach of the Year title. In the 1980's, Coach Tasker continued his winning ways as he led his team to consecutive undefeated seasons from 1980-82, and he was elected to the National High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. President, on the eve of the third-winningest active high school coach's retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ralph Tasker for his years of dedication to the youth of New Mexico. Certainly, we all have a lot to learn from this man, and his example stands as a marker that we should all strive to attain. Thank you, Coach Tasker, for teaching us the true meaning of winning gracefully.●

#### NOMINATION OF DR. DAVID SATCHER

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, over the course of the debate on Dr. Satcher's nomination for Assistant Secretary of Health and Surgeon General, Senator ASHCROFT and others have expressed some issues of concern. First, Dr. Satcher's comments regarding abortion. Second, an AZT study in Africa to research alternative treatments for developing nations to the costly and inaccessible AZT regimen.

While I initially had concerns about Dr. Satcher's comments on abortion, I wanted to listen to the debate, examine additional written responses Dr. Satcher provided to the committee on this issue, and make my decision.

During the committee's consideration of Dr. Satcher, he stated that he supports President Clinton in his veto of the ban on partial-birth-abortions. After the hearings, he tried to back-track.

In his October 28, 1997 written comments to Senator FRIST, Dr. Satcher further explained his position on abortion and I'd like to quote those remarks.

Let me state unequivocally that I have no intention of using the positions of Assistant